

## SOUTH BEND NEWS-TIMES

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*The Paper That Does Things*

AUGUST 14, 1917.

## PROVOST GENERAL CROWDER AND HIS ORDERS TO CONSCRIPT EXEMPTORS.

Something queer seems to be lurking somewhere in the vicinity of our conscription Denmark. Either the Associated Press and International News services are distributing a lot of bunk as coming from Provost Gen. Crowder, or he is handing them a lot of bunk about what his orders are to the draft exemption boards; orders that the board never get, or else which, at least in spots, they are keeping under cover.

As near as we can make out, from certain sources, about all that is necessary in order to escape exemption is to get married and claim exemption. If the embryo conscript will swear, and his wife will swear, and somebody else who claims to know will swear that the wife is dependent upon her husband, and has not enough to support her exclusive of gifts or presents received during the year, that is a prima facie case of dependency, and some boards claim that is as far as they are obliged to go. Of course, locally, the rule has been adopted that the marriage must have taken place previous to the outbreak of the war, but the three boards seem as far apart as the morning of the resurrection and the day of judgment as to what constitutes a dependent within the meaning of the regulations. Quite apparently some of the explanations that have been handed out through the columns of the press have never reached the boards from official sources or they would need to be blind not to see them more nearly alike.

Married men and single men are not classes by themselves at all within the regulations as they have been handed the press by the provost general. The question is one of dependents and of no-dependents. In ruling on the marriage exemptions, Gen. Crowder says:

"Such dependency ordinarily renders discharge advisable because, since the drafted person loses civil income and thus loses his means of support, the wife is left without support, and this lack of support is the effect which the act claims to avoid."

This would exempt pretty nearly all the poor men's married sons, wouldn't it?

And, in this ruling on well-to-do and rich men's sons, Gen. Crowder presents, as ground for refusing discharge, this:

"Where the parents or other relatives of the wife or the husband are able, ready and willing to provide adequate support for her and her children, if any, during the absence of the husband."

"Able, ready and willing." The matter depends wholly on the genuineness of the patriotism of these "parents and other relatives." We violate no confidence in saying that parents marrying off their children do not readily become willing to support them. Indeed, the temperance of the national patriotism can be discovered, to a fair extent, by observing how many of the "able" parents express their willingness to support the dependents of their sons and sons-in-law, especially when the order goes out to say a wife need not depend on "gifts and presents."

A big part of the problem seems to be to get up an army without taking young married men who are too poor to go to war and without the sons of those "able" families that are unwilling to resume support of their children. There sure is reason for the sweat that's on Gen. Crowder's brow—if there's any, or is he just bluffing?

## THE STORAGE HOUSES.

There is a certain amount of satisfaction in knowing that the storage houses hold today three hundred and sixty-six per cent more poultry than they held a year ago, sixty-two per cent more frozen beef, one hundred and seven per cent more cured beef, thirty-two per cent more frozen lamb and mutton, twenty per cent more butter, 40 per cent more cheese and one hundred and nine per cent more frozen eggs. There is conclusive evidence that the nation will not starve next winter, so far as meat and dairy products are concerned. In a way, this report is a comfortable companion to the big crop report.

But whatever satisfaction the public finds in this evidence of plenty is mitigated by the knowledge that it has been stored not for the purpose of providing a stable and fair-priced supply to the public throughout the year, but for the purpose of enabling food speculators to make big fortunes. The storage houses have lent themselves, more notoriously than usual, to the scheme of the gamblers and profiteers instead to the needs of the nation.

Perhaps this abuse of an otherwise excellent industry is inevitable with the present system. If so, that system will have to be changed without delay. The public is insisting that if the perishable food supply is to be hoarded, it must be hoarded by public agencies for the public welfare.

The storage business is naturally a public utility. It must be controlled by the government. Definite action is expected along this line from the federal food administration. If necessary, the government should take absolute possession of the storage houses. Their proper management is as vital to the public welfare as the management of the ship building plans and munitions factories.

## More "Widows and Orphans" Sophistry

LATEST in the efforts of the American railroads to reach the public and impress upon it by the individual, the great personal interest, even of a financial order, which each, from out of the mass has in railroad finances, comes vividly to light through the "press agency" circulation that is being given to an editorial that appeared recently in Collier's Weekly.

Jay Gould's "widows and orphans" propaganda was scarcely less sophistical.

The public is asked to lie down and consent to being fleeced by the railroads because life, fire and marine insurance companies, in which millions are policy holders; because trust companies, and state, national and savings banks, in which millions are stockholders and depositors, and because many benevolent institutions, schools, colleges, etc., in which other millions are concerned, have invested their surplus in, and are large holders of railroad bonds and securities.

Through these agencies, you see, you are expected to throw out your chest and imagine yourself a bloated bondholder—you or your neighbor, and perhaps both,—your combined holdings being laid down at your door as \$5,254,000,000; this right along side of 1,000,000 other individuals, direct owners of \$10,000,000,000 in such securities. In all, the total number of individuals interested, is set down as 57,000,000 out of our 110,000,000 of population, in consequence of which Collier's adds:

"The average man must wake up and become self-conscious. He must feel himself a railroad security holder, just as he feels himself the owner of a farm or a shop. He must be as vigilant about the one as the other."

Get it? And yet, Collier's claims to be a paper for the people. We have, or thought we had, abolished interlocking directorates, but that doesn't prevent the railroads going to the people with their interlocking stock, bond, insurance policy and bank book holdings.

Anything, in other words, to fool the people.

The appeal merely serves to confirm what has long been contended, viz.: that one of the uses to which the insurance companies, trust companies, banks, etc., are being put, is to gather in all the nickels and dimes possible from the masses of the people, invest them as "big business" want, and then dare those affected to whistle when the time comes for "big business" to shake the masses down.

Railroads seem to have reached the end of their rope with the interstate commerce commission so far as concerns rate increases as a matter of merit.

The new game is to make the people believe now that they are really the owners of the railroads; indirectly, of course, but the owners. Leave it to the railroads, the insurance companies, the trust companies, banks, etc., to see to it that the people don't get to owning the railroads directly; yea, nor even collectively.

The process reminds one of the game that the brewers of Indiana (not all outside of South Bend, either,) played when a year or so ago they took to bonding their plants and unloading the bonds in small blocks on the people, thus hoping to reduce popular favoritism for prohibition through a widespread financial interest in the liquor business.

It might even be compared to the trick played locally by the Murdock hog and hominy holdings—the traction interests—with its tens of thousands of watered bonds in the hands of the people of influence, so as to have their backing in the provision of rotten service, the oppression of labor, or anything likely to tend toward keeping the securities more valuable.

We decline to be humbugged by the railroad magnates' popular ownership squeal. It is as silly as the kaiser's peace pretenses.

Those who hold insurance policies, bank stock, deposit certificates, etc., can afford them or they wouldn't have them, and great copious tears, in their behalf, painting them as "widows and orphans," is a mere hypocrisy.

The basis of passenger and freight rates for railroads should be the earning power, earning ability, and earning experience, actual investment, maintenance, replacement, etc., and nobody gives a rap, from the public standpoint, who owns the stocks and bonds, directly, indirectly, or otherwise.

Nay, verily! This to the 57,000,000 "that hath shall be given and they shall have more abundantly," but from the 53,000,000 that "hath not shall be taken away even that they hath," business don't go. It isn't exactly the way Biblical lore intended it.

## PEACE TALK SEDITIOUS.

Now that both the German and Austrian (better called German-Austrian) chancellors having showed an inclination to talk peace, there seems a demand, by the peace-at-all-prices element and a small but villainous part of the American press, that Pres't Wilson make some movement for peace discussion. And our president, sensibly and patriotically, confines himself exclusively to making movements for war.

A fellow who would peacefully go out and put a mad dog on the head and say "Good doggy! good little doggie!" would be rightly set down as loony. That's just what Pres't Wilson would be doing by assuming anything like a pacific attitude toward the German autocracy. Peace with that body of brutes would be worthless. Belgium proves it and Zimmerman's dirty effort to set Japan and Mexico upon us, when we had a peace treaty with Germany, rivets it. So long as that mad autocracy has the power to represent Germany at the peace council, we cannot, in wisdom or safety, even consider peace. A mad dog is shot, not treated with pills and anti-toxins. The autocrats of Germany have put themselves without the limits of treatment under the ordinary diplomatic processes of civilization and, while they rule Germany, peace talk is seditious.

## THIS PUZZLING WAR.

Here's where the war gets us all tangled up some more. Cometh a cablegram from American field headquarters in France to this effect:

"Thus far there has been no serious case at any of the hospitals. The American nurses, girls of some of the best American families, are entering upon their work with enthusiastic zeal. They earn the hearty gratitude of the soldiers."

It sounds smooth and beautiful. But, if there's nobody in the hospitals and the soldiers are heartily grateful for those best family girls' enthusiastic work, what is the work those girls are at?

## CLASSIC SLACKERS.

Some of the exemption claims remind one of the would-be slackers among the Greek heroes who stormed and took Troy. The crafty Ulysses feigned madness and the swift Achilles disguised himself as a girl when the call for mobilization came.

But their schemes didn't work, so they went to war with good grace and performed the brave deeds that we've all been reading about ever since.

Are the modern slackers as good sports?

A Pittsburg has invented a "painless" bayonet containing a capsule of antiseptics, anaesthetics and gelatin.

One horsepower will run two hundred and seventy million ordinary watches.

"The Stars incline, but do not compel"

## HOROSCOPE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1917.

This is an exceedingly favorable day, according to the reading of astrologers, for Mercury, Venus and Jupiter are all in benefic aspect.

It is a time in which to push all interests, whether business or social. There is an encouraging sign for new enterprises of every sort.

It is a lucky day for entering into new partnerships, leasing new homes and signing contracts.

Theaters come under a sway making for success and benefits. It is an auspicious day for testing a play or a player.

Under this configuration shopping, giving parties of every sort and whatever brings together young men and young women should be most lucky.

Advertising has the best sort of a direction. It is supposed to be a most propitious time for starting any publicity campaign.

Weddings under this planetary direction should bring success and happiness.

During this month rapid changes of sentiment in regard to the war will be noticeable, the seers declare, and Pres't Wilson may suffer from criticism.

There is a sign presaging extraordinary duties and activities for dentists.

Public health should be safeguarded as never before, if the warning of the stars is to be regarded. Extreme care in sanitation is enjoined as epidemics are fore-shadowed.

All the indications are extremely bad for the health and personal wellbeing of the kaiser.

Persons whose birthday it is should be careful of fire or accident. An active and prosperous year is foretold.

Children born on this day probably will be lucky throughout life, but these subjects of Leo make better employees than employers.

(Copyright, 1917.)

Nitrogen, that most precious of fertilizing elements, may be present in a soil in a condition unavailable as plant food. Merely as an illustration it might be full of fine leather scraps or ground leather. In peaty soils such a condition often exists, though rich in nitrogen.

## THE MELTING POT

COME! TAKE POTLUCK WITH US.

## THE PILOTS.

A sailor owned a little ship. A gentle breeze was blowing. The sailor hailed his canvas up and said "I must be going. But of my port of destiny I've not the faintest notion—I merely know it lies beyond a broad uncharted ocean."

A hundred pilots swarmed about to offer him their service, and their solicitations made the sailor slightly nervous.

Each pilot had a certain chart he hankered to dispose of. "It shows," he said, "a narrow route no other pilot knows of. If you will follow my advice, my guidance and direction, your voyage will be smooth and all your weather pluperfection. And though I never function as a pessimist or knocker, these other guys will steer you down to Davy Jones' locker."

The sailor thoughtfully revolved the thinker in his noodle. And said: "My friends, you cannot separate me from my boodle. Your knowledge is so limited, you quickly must exhaust it in talking of the ocean when you haven't ever crossed it. I do not underestimate the chances I am taking. But shall not reimburse you for your amiable faking."

—Arthur Brooks Baker.

## NO SLACKERS HERE.

By James J. Montague.

When the government orders the dining car men To serve smaller portions of stew, And to charge just as high for one slice of mince pie As they formerly soaked for two, They don't consult lawyers and carry the case Clear up to the uppermost courts.

They simply obey the hard rule right away Like cheerful and unselfish sports. When the hotel proprietors get a command To ward off a shortage of meat On account of the war by assessing you more And giving you far less to eat, They don't make a row or attempt to resist Or talk of unlawful restraint.

They just like the tolls like good, sweet natured souls. With never a word of complaint.

No slackers are found among dealers in food. They'll put bigger nicks in your salaries, And each dawning day they will find a new way To cut down your portion of calories. The government merely need give them a tip To shorten the stock of ingredients. In hash, bread or pie and they all will comply With prompt and implicit obedience.

## We're Doing Our Best, Colonel.

Mr. Roosevelt asks us to prepare for the next great war, which is what we fancied we were doing by trying to get ready for this one.

## Playing With Dynamite.

The I. W. W. had better go slow about inciting the noble redman to go to war. Certain English economists tried that once, and very shortly afterwards England was put to the painful necessity of sending over new colonists to take their places.

## One Senator Sees a Light.

John Sharp Williams says the people are tired of hearing statesmen gabble about nothing. Now that he has discovered it, there will be a little improvement in the Congressional Record, anyway.

## No Hypocrite.

China has gone into the war, but she doesn't pretend that Buddha is going to lead her armies to victory.

## Misdirected Conservation.

Chemists are experimenting with a scheme to make paper out of

spinach. But spinach can be used as food, and food is getting scarce and valuable. Why not try to make it out of rhubarb?

## Out-Slacking the Slackers.

The Russian married men have got a still better way to evade service. They make their wives fight for them.

## At Ten a Pair.

Blessing on thee, little man, Barefoot boy with cheeks of tan; Most any one would envy youse The money you must save on shoes.

## The Brutality of Death by Slow Torture.

Why can't congress put poor old John Barleycorn out of his misery and be done with it.

## The Only Way.

The conservationists have simply got to deny wheat its place in the bun.

## No Time for Contract Grabbers.

Every day ought to be a cheatless day in Washington.

## Can Electricity Aid the Farmer

By Garrett P. Serviss

A report from Sayville, Long Island, says that farmers there aver that their crops, and particularly corn crops, in fields surrounding the great wireless telegraph plant are much further advanced in proportion as they lie nearer the station. Naturally, they ascribe this to the influence of the electric currents and waves generated by the powerful apparatus employed in sending dispatches.

A very careful and thorough set of experiments would be required in order to determine with scientific certainty whether the conclusion of the farmers in this case is correct, but I see no reason for rejecting it without examination. Elaborate experiments both in this country and abroad have sufficiently established the fact that it is possible, by means of specially arranged apparatus, designed to send electric currents through the soil containing the roots of plants, to both hasten and increase the growth of various kinds of vegetables.

The results obtained have, in some instances, been very remarkable, and persons interested in the details can find them in the reports of government agricultural experiment stations. There is nothing mysterious or wonderful about it, except as electricity itself seems a mystery to many people. And, indeed, electricity is mysterious, in the same sense and to the same degree as gravitation is, but not otherwise.

The well-known success of electro-theapeutics, i. e., the application of electricity to the treatment of diseases, should alone be enough to make it appear probable that electricity may be used to stimulate vital forces, whether those of animals or plants. Whatever can destroy life can also generate it, all depending upon the manner and degree of application. A bolt of lightning may shatter a mighty tree, but the electric energy concentrated in that bolt, if distributed over an acre of growing crops, might, there is reason to believe, swell the farmer's returns by 25, or even 50, per cent.

We are standing at the opening of a new era, the most wonderful in the world's history: an era that has already received a name before it has been fairly established—"the electric age." We are not yet in that age; we are only on its threshold. Telegraphy, telephony, electro-mechanic power are small things in comparison with what the next generation, or the next but under the direction of competent

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